

**An extension of the range of *Strombus (Dolomena) plicatus plicatus*
(Röding, 1798) (Gastropoda, Strombidae)**

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While revising the Strombidae collection of the Rijksmuseum van Natuurlijke Historie (RMNH) in Leiden, I came across some interesting samples belonging to the *Strombus (Dolomena) plicatus* complex. The localities are situated in the Persian Gulf and along the Makran coast in the Gulf of Oman. To my knowledge none of the subspecies belonging to *S. (D.) plicatus* s.l. have been reported from that area.¹ Because of the much smaller size of these specimens as compared to the typical form from the Red Sea, I first thought that these shells might belong to a new subspecies.

Mienis (1975) reported the existence of dwarf specimens of *S. (D.) p. plicatus* (Röding, 1798) in the Red Sea, varying in height from 30 to 33 mm, differing only in size from the typical *S. (D.) p. plicatus* which usually ranges from 45 to 68 mm in height. However, Mienis (1975) also mentioned some intermediate specimens, making it impossible to make a clear division between the larger and the smaller forms.

Comparison between dwarf specimens from the Red Sea from the collection of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem (HUJ) and the RMNH specimens from the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman revealed no significant differences. Thus, there is no reason to describe these specimens as representing a new subspecies. Nevertheless, it is remarkable that all shells from the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman do not exceed 43 mm in height, the smallest being only 26 mm high.

The specimens from the Persian Gulf were collected in November 1965 (one specimen) and September to October 1966 at depths varying from 19 to 46 m by H. Clarke and A.J. Keij (Shell research project "Persian Gulf"). The two shells from the Gulf of Oman are from older collections.

In RMNH there are also some samples of *Strombus* spec. from the Persian Gulf preserved in alcohol. One of these samples contains specimens of both *S. (D.) p. plicatus* and *S. (Canarium) fusiformis* Sowerby, 1842.

A dwarf specimen of *S. (D.) p. plicatus* from the Red Sea was illustrated by Mienis (1975: 6). A specimen from the Persian Gulf has been illustrated by Kronenberg & Berkhout (1986: 367).

Material examined (a = adult, sa = subadult, j = juvenile shell; all in RMNH if not indicated otherwise). — Persian Gulf: Sta. T 956, 24°04'15" N 54°21'40" E, at 19 m (1 a); Sta. T 1140, 26°19'45" N 52°05'40" E, at 46 m (1 a); Sta. T 1141, 26°18'46" N 52°03'50" E, at 31 m (1 a collected 1965 & 6 a); Sta. T 1146, 26°12'30" N 51°56'15" E, at 36 m (1 a); Sta. T 1182, 26°43'00" N 50°54'20" E, at 21

¹ Biggs (1973) mentions an undefined *Strombus* spec., hitherto unknown from this area. No description or illustrations are provided, but it might perhaps refer to the dwarf form discussed in this paper. The material which Biggs has examined (five beach shells) has been deposited in the British Museum (Natural History).

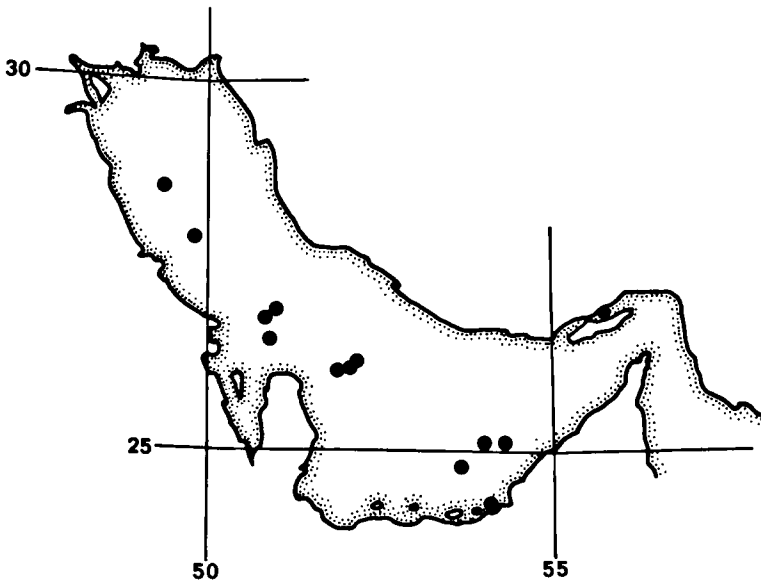


Fig. 1. *Strombus (Dolomena) plicatus plicatus* (Röding), Persian Gulf records in RMNH (solid dots).

m (5 a & 2 sa, dredge); Sta. T 1191, 27°00'00" N 50°54'30" E, at 30 m (21 j & 7 sa); Sta. T 1261, 25°14'50" N 54°00'40" E, at 27 m (2 a); Sta. T 1266, 25°14'15" N 54°15'50" E, at 19 m (1 a); Sta. T 1480, 26°50'00" N 50°56'05" E, at 29 m (6 a & 1 j); Sta. T 1558, 27°58'10" N 49°41'30" E, at 23 m (1 a & 1 j); Sta. T 1588, 28°32'40" N 49°20'20" E, at 35 m (1 sa & 6 j); Sta. T 1679, 24°51'40" N 53°42'10" E, at 23 m (2 a). Gulf of Oman, Makran coast (1 a, reg. no. 584); (1 a, ex H.C. Fulton, 23-I-1930). Gulf of Suez: Ras Matarma, IX-1950 (1 a); Ras Matarma, 1948-1949 (3 a, 2 sa & 8 j, reg. no. 770); Tor, Sinai (3 a, reg. no. 799); Zafarana, south of Suez (1 a, reg. no. 584). In HUJ: Aqaba (1 a, HUJ no. 30489); Elat (2 a, HUJ no. 30496); Jebel Attair, Ethiopia (1 a, HUJ no. 30497).

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SAMENVATTING

Uitbreiding van het verspreidingsgebied van *Strombus (Dolomena) plicatus plicatus* (Röding, 1798)
(Gastropoda, Strombidae)

Tot nu toe was *Strombus (Dolomena) plicatus plicatus* (Röding, 1798) alleen bekend uit de Rode Zee. In de collectie van het Rijksmuseum van Natuurlijke Historie te Leiden bevindt zich een aantal exemplaren van deze ondersoort afkomstig uit de Perzische Golf en de Golf van Oman. Het betreft hier een in alle gevallen uitzonderlijk kleine vorm, die echter niet te onderscheiden is van een door Mienis gesignaleerde dwergvorm uit de Rode Zee (waar ook veel grotere exemplaren voorkomen). Daarom is afgezien van de beschrijving van een nieuwe ondersoort.